

Historical Society dedicates marker

by Mary Lou Hytof

On July 1, 1963 - 127 years ago - three brigades of rebels under the command of Major General James Ewell Brown (Jeb) Stuart, the flamboyant Confederate cavalry chief, rode through Dillsburg.

While Stuart was "dawdling in Dillsburg," the most bloody battle to ever have been fought on American soil was unfolding in Gettysburg.

If Stuart's brigades of 6,000 cavalry men had arrived instead at the Gettysburg battlefield that day, the course of the battle, and perhaps the war, could have changed, and we might be whistling Dixie.

To commemorate Dillsburg's role in the Civil War, the Dillsburg Historical Society dedicated a historical marker on Sunday, July 1, at 2 p.m. - the approximate time that Stuart rode through town.

The large, green sign sits high along North Baltimore Street in front of the Metropolitan Edison Building.

"On this day, at this time and place 127 years ago, there were rebels here," keynote speaker Victor A. Neubaum began. Dillsburg was one of the towns that saw part of the Gettysburg campaign played out on its streets, he continued.

A local attorney, Neubaum is a civil war historian and author of *Our Boys: Northern York County in the Civil War*.

During the rebel invasion, area residents played an "elaborate, earnest game of hide-and-seek," Neubaum told a small crowd that had gathered for the ceremony. Residents buried treasures and hid their horses in the woods, he explained.

Neubaum referred to an eye-witness account of Stuart's invasion that was recorded in a booklet entitled: *Local History of Dillsburg* by A.N. Eslinger, dated 1902.

Eslinger wrote the following: "The Battle of Gettysburg opened, and the cannonading could be heard distinctly in Dillsburg, and on the same day, Stuart's cavalry passed through Dillsburg under the command of General Fitz Hugh Lee and General Wade Hampton."

They robbed the stores in Dillsburg, and the post office of all the money and stamps; and even the postmaster's overcoat, and all the goods they could find in the stores."

For those who wonder why the author was concerned enough to record that the postmaster's overcoat was stolen in July, Eslinger was the postmaster, Neubaum quipped.

Although Eslinger's account made the rebels appear to be looting savages, the confederates, overall, behaved more like Southern gentlemen, Neubaum said.

A young Dillsburg boy who believed that "rebels are devils," broke his leg while jumping a fence to hide from the Confederates, Neubaum said. According to the story, the soldiers set his leg and returned the frightened lad home to his mother.

As for the looting, at least one small confederate brigade which passed through Dillsburg on June 28, bought their provisions from the local residents. They "paid" for food for themselves and their horses with worthless Confederate dollars. The soldiers, however, promised the residents that the bills would be "good as gold" when the war was over, Neubaum said.

After his men robbed the Post Office, Stuart read a York newspaper account for rebels in Cumberland County, and

immediately headed for Carlisle to join them.

While the Stuart, Brigadier General Fitz Hugh Lee, and Colonel Jon Chambliss brigades moved onward to Carlisle, one confederate brigade was left in Dillsburg.

Brigadier General Wade Hampton was delayed by a cumbersome wagon train which Stuart had captured from Federal troops outside of Rockville, Maryland. Hampton's brigade camped 1 1/2 miles north of town on what was the Mumper Farm along Dog Run near Turkey Foot.

In the meantime, Stuart's men shelled Carlisle and set fire to the Union cavalry barracks.

Later that evening, one of eight couriers sent by General Robert E. Lee to seek Stuart, reached the cavalry commander with news of the Gettysburg battle.

At 1 a.m., July 2, Stuart departed for Gettysburg.

According to Neubaum's account, Hampton's brigade decamped and moved onto Mountain Road to Clear Springs, then to the State Road (Old U.S. Route 15) to Gettysburg.

Hampton's men joined the Confederate Army in Gettysburg later that day.

Stuart led the Cavalry Corps into battle on July 3 but was fought to a draw by the Union Cavalry Corps, Neubaum wrote.

"Indeed, Dillsburg was a witness to history, so we are entitled to have this memorial," Neubaum told the crowd.

Jill Hoffman, president of the historical society, unveiled the marker.

Northern Elementary School Principal Mark O. Hagenbuch, a historian of the American Revolution, led the visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Representative Bruce Smith presented Mrs. Hoffman with a handful of blue bumper stickers from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission that read: "I brake for historic markers."

An application for a state marker was denied by the commission, Hoffman had said earlier. Although the historical society was invited to re-submit its application at a later date, the group decided to go ahead and order the \$2,000 marker from a company in Erie.

He wanted to dedicate it on the anniversary of Stuart's march through Dillsburg, Hoffman said.

Mayor Bob Bostic told the crowd it also was fitting to have the ceremony on the Independence Day weekend.

Master of Ceremonies John Hoffman also thanked Doug Rosbach, the local representative of Metropolitan Edison, and J. Chadwick Wagner, the borough manager, for their participation. He also thanked Lobar Inc. for supplying the machinery to dig the hole for the sign.

To add a little Civil War flavor to the event, two Wellsville men were dressed in military uniforms of the time. They were neighbors Gary Endres (Confederate) and Mike Barndt (Union). The men are members of local Civil War historical groups.

CAR WASH

The Northern Basketball Boosters will be having a Car Wash/Bake Sale on July 14 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Monaghan Presbyterian Church, next to Myers.



To commemorate Dillsburg's role in the Civil War, the Northern York County Historical Society dedicated a historical marker on Sunday, July 1 at 2:00 p.m. in front of the Metropolitan Edison Building.

Photo by David March

Used car lot burglarized

Police are investigating a break-in and burglary that occurred early Sunday morning at Harpster's Auto Sales, Route 15, N. Dillsburg.

Taken was a Mita copier, valued at \$1,500; a telephone; an intercom system; a color TV and cable box.

The burglar or burglars broke into the office through a back window, then carried off the items through the front door.

A neighbor told police she heard a loud bang around 1:30 Sunday morning and her dog started barking.

According to Rhonda Harpster, co-owner of the car lot, the thief cut himself severely while breaking in. "There was blood everywhere," she said, "On the floor, the drapes, the walls, everywhere!"

Anyone having heard or seen anything at the car lot around the time of the break-in and burglary are asked to call Carroll Township Police Department at 432-3317.

Husband-wife team competing in Keystone Games

Julie and Jeff Lawrence of Dillsburg will be among 6,000 Pennsylvania amateur athletes to compete in the 1990 Keystone Summer Games finals scheduled for August 1-5th in the Lehigh Valley area of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Julie Lawrence has entered the field hockey competition - open female division for the Capital Region. This is her first year for competition.

Jeff Lawrence has entered the field hockey competition in the open male division for the Capital Region. He also competed in the Keystone State Games open male field hockey competition in 1986-1989.

Jeff is a traffic engineer at Gannett Fleming, Inc., Camp Hill. Julie is an exercise physiologist at American Rehab Center, Camp Hill.

The Keystone State Games are patterned after the Olympic program and will award gold, silver and bronze medals in each division of 33 sports at the finals competition.

Two NHS cheerleaders selected for Big 33

Jody Smith and Tiffany Taylor have been selected to represent Northern High School this year at the Big 33 game to be held this July 28 at Hershey Stadium.

There are approximately 53 girls picked from the Central Pennsylvania area to participate, representing 26 high schools.

From the dream of one person, the late Al Clark, the Big 33 Football Classic, for more than three decades, has produced champion performances from Pennsylvania's top athletes and high school sports stars from across the nation. Many of our players have gone on to successful football careers and become leaders in other fields.

The highest winners in the Big 33 competition are the charities and scholarship funds that, over the years, have received more than \$1 million from the games.

Widely renewed as the nation's finest scholastic all-star game, the Big 33 Football Classic is a vehicle for showcasing Pennsylvania's talents by issuing a challenge to other States or for that matter, the Nations' best. Representing a dream for high school players and coaches to achieve excellence, given the pride of recognition and the hope of a brighter future. To join the hallowed list of Big 33 alumni is to secure a place in Pennsylvania football history.

Although that magic "week" comes and goes...the memories linger on. The Big 33 Scholarship Foundation acts as an umbrella for funds to be dedicated and awarded to young men and women who desire further education in academic or technical institutions. These scholarships, based on merit and need, are funded by proceeds from the Big 33 Football Classic.

During game week in July, the students spend time practicing for the big game Saturday evening, visiting local hospitals, picnicking with fellow team members and the special team, and joining together for the Big 33 Honors Banquet Friday evening.

Game time (kick off) Saturday, July 28, 1990 - Hersheypark Stadium.



NHS Cheerleaders Jody Smith (l) and Tiffany Taylor (r) were selected to cheer at the Big 33 game this July 28.

Over 100 wrestlers compete in tournament

On Saturday, June 2, 1990, the Northern Wrestling Booster Club held their 12th Annual Senior High Wrestling Tournament. Nearly 100 of central Pennsylvania's best wrestlers participated in the event.

Northern wrestlers who participated and their places of finish are as follows: Mark Renard, 108 lbs. Quarterfinalist, Jared Wenger, 160 lbs.,

Quarterfinalist, Wally DeWall, Hwt., Quarterfinalist, Steve Miller, 160 lbs., Third Place, Dave Habowski, 171 lb., Third Place, Coley Kreitzer, 189 lbs. Runner-Up.

Congratulations to all wrestlers and thanks to the local sponsors for making this tournament a success: Lefever's Chevrolet, Harbold's Ford, Williams' Excavating, Stough Insurance.